I Appoint *Thomas Newcomb*, and *Henry Hills*, to Print this Information, According to the Order of the HOUSE of COMMONS; And that no other Perſon preſume to Print the ſame. *Novemb.* 10th 1680.

Wi WILLIAMS, *Speaker.*

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Wi WILLIAMS, *Speaker.*

THE INFORMATION OF Robert Jennison

Of *GRAYS-INN*, Gent.

Delivered at the BAR of the HOUSE OF

COMMONS,

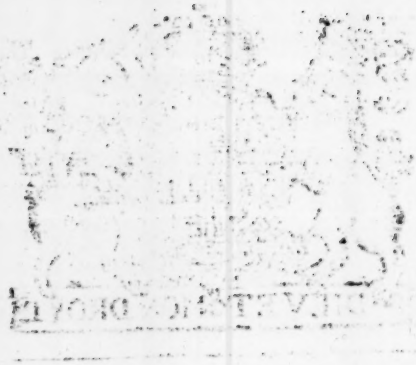
Tuesday the Ninth day of *November*,
In the Year of our Lord, 1680.

Perused and Signed to be Printed, According to the Order of the House of Commons,

BY ME

William Williams, Speaker.

LONDON,
Printed by the Assigns of *John Bill*, *Thomas Newcomb*, and *Henry Hills*, Printers to the Kings most Excellent Majesty, 1680.



THE INFORMATION OF Robert Jenniſon OF GRAYS-INN, Gent.

THis Informant ſaith, That about the beginning of the Year 1678. he hath heard Mr. *Ireland*, and Mr. *Thomas Jenniſon*, both Jeſuits, Diſcourſe of a Deſign by the Roman Catholicks to obtain a Liberty, or a Toleration, for the open Profeſſion of their Religion here in *England*. And the way he then heard them ſpeak of, was, by Collecting a round Sum of Money among their Party, and by Bribing the greateſt part of the then Parliament. This Informant hath likewiſe heard the two forenamed Perſons talk of the ſecuring the Duke of *York's* Succeſſion, which they told this Informant was to be done by granting out Commiſſions to thoſe of that Religion, to the end they might be ready to Riſe, upon the Death of the King. He hath alſo heard thoſe, with other Jeſuits (*viz.*) *Blunden* and *Fenwick*, Diſcourſe in General Terms, of the Neceſſity and Uſefulneſs to their Party, of altering the Government Eſtabliſhed, and that the Roman Catholick Religion could never be ſettled in *England* till that were done, and that the preſent Government were brought to the French Model.

In the month of *June* in the ſame year, this Informant being at Mr. *Ireland's* Chamber in *Ruſſel-ſtreet*, *Covent-garden*, and there hapning ſome Diſcourſe, That the Roman Catholick Religion would ſuddenly come in, and be owned

in *England*, Mr. *Ireland* did then ſay, That there was onely One in the way, that hindred that Religion from Flouriſhing in *England* again, and that it was an eaſie matter to Poyſon the King. That Sir *George Wakeman* might opportunely and eaſily do it: And this Informant then demanding if Sir *George Wakeman* was the King's Phyſician, Mr. *Ireland* did to that Queſtion reply, No, but that he was the Queen's, and thence might have an Opportunity to do it.

In *Auguſt* following, the ſame day this Informant came from *Windſor*, (which he hath reaſon to remember by very good Circumſtances) this Informant went to Mr. *Ireland's* Chamber, where he found him pulling off his Boots upon the Frame of a Table: Who told this Informant, He was newly come by Poſt from *Wolverhampton* in *Staffordſhire*, and that this Informant's Relations there were well, and would have been glad to have ſeen this Informant there: who after a return of Thanks, and ſome congratulation upon his arrival, told Mr. *Ireland* he was newly come from *Windſor*. The ſaid *Ireland* thereupon enquiring what News from thence, and of the diverſion of the Court; the Informant made anſwer, He underſtood that his Majeſty took much delight in Crow-hawking and Fiſhing, but chiefly in the latter, which he uſed to follow early in the Morning, accompanied with a ſmall Retinue of two or three. Mr. *Ireland* preſently replyed, He were eaſily taken off, or removed. To which this Informant returned and made anſwer, God forbid. After ſome Pauſe, No, ſays he, I do not ſay 'tis lawful. Here hapned this Interruption: This Informant then asked Mr. *Ireland*, ſeeing he was newly come out of *Staffordſhire*, what his Aunt ſaid concerning a Letter ſent to her about two Months before, relating to the ſame ſum, or thereabouts, which this Informant had had in the mean time of him. Mr. *Ireland* did then make anſwer, as from her, That ſhe did not think fit to anſwer it; and further, That the old Gentlewoman was hard enough, and would hold her own. After this he drew down a Diſcourſe concerning Religion, which was ſhortly to be brought in, and preſſed this Informant by divers Arguments to be inſtrumental in it, urging how Meritorous it would be, and how much to the Glory of God: and thereupon offered

offered to cauſe the Twenty pound borrowed of him by this Informant, to be remitted, and forgiven him, if he would be Aſſiſting to the Taking off the King, and would be one of thoſe that would go to *Windſor* about it. But this Informant did anſwer, That he would not for Twenty times Twenty pound have any hand in the Death of the King. Whereupon the ſaid *Ireland* replyed, Will you do nothing to bring in the Catholick Religion? To which this Informant did ſay, That he did not believe it would ever come in by Blood. Upon which the ſaid *Ireland* replyed, What! would you not have Religion to Flouriſh in *England* again? Whereto this Informant anſwered, If it were done, if the King were taken off; ſo, and well; but this Informant ſaid he would have no hand in it. But the ſaid *William Ireland* not being ſatisfied with this Informant's Anſwers, purſued thus, Do you know any *Iriſh* men of our Religion, that are ſtout and couragious? This Informant replyed, The *Iriſh* Gentlemen were commonly ſo, and did name Captain *Levalin*, Mr. *Thomas Brahall*, Mr. *Karney*, three *Iriſh* men, and Mr. *James Wilſon*, being all Gentlemen that lived in or about *Grays-Inn*, of whoſe Names (two of them at the leaſt) the ſaid *Ireland* took particular notice in Writing, to the beſt of this Informant's remembrance. And this Informant did then tell the ſaid *Ireland*, That he believed no men of Eſtates would be concerned in that Affair, and that he himſelf was Heir to an Eſtate (his Brother being a Prieſt) and he underſtood that Captain *Levalin* was Heir to a very good Eſtate; and therefore this Informant did believe he would have nothing to do in any ſuch matter, unleſs the Pique which he had to the King might move him to it. And this Informant ſaith, That after he had, upon the importunity of *William Ireland*, named unto him Captain *Levalin*, Mr. *Karney*, Mr. *Brahall*, and Mr. *James Wilſon*, to be ſtout and couragious Gentlemen, the ſaid *William Ireland* did ask and require this Informant to go down with the ſaid Gentlemen to *Windſor*, to be aſſiſtant in the Taking off the King, which this Informant refuſed, ſaying, He would not have any hand in the Death of the King: ſaying, No men of Eſtates would engage therein, as this Informant believed. And the ſaid *William Ireland* did approve of the ſaid four perſons named as aforeſaid,

ſaid, by this Informant, as fit for the Deſign; and declared that he knew Mr. *Levalin*, and Mr. *Karney*, before this Informant had named them. By the which this Informant did apprehend that he might have communicated with them of the ſaid Deſign for *Windſor*, before the nomination aforeſaid. And he further ſaith, At the ſame time when he came from *Windſor*, Mr. *William Ireland* did ask this Informant for the Twenty pound lent unto this Informant upon Bond, although the ſame was not then due; and further ſaid, He wanted Fourſcore pounds, having then occaſion for that ſum, and this Informant did ſay, He would return what he owed him, aſſoon as he ſhould get into the North.

And this Informant further ſaith, That nigh two Months after the Muſtering the Forces upon *Hounſlow-Heath*, the aforenamed *Tho. Jenniſon* told this Informant, He had a matter of great Conſequence to impart unto him: adding, That there was a Deſign on Foot, ſo laid, as it could not well be diſcovered, wherein the greateſt Catholicks in *England* were Embarqued; That the Queen and the Duke were in the Deſign, and ſeveral Lords; by Name the Lord *Bellaſis*, the Lord *Powis*, the Lord *Arundel* of *Warder*; and the ſaid *Thomas Jenniſon* did ſay, That they had often attempted the Lord Treaſurer, and at the laſt had made him theirs: further ſaying, That it would be of great advantage to this Informant to Embarque with them, and that he could not be in greater danger than they: and that he would acquaint this Informant with more particulars after he had received the Sacrament of Secrecy, which he engaged this Informant to do upon the next Holiday, at Sir *Philip Tyrrwhits* houſe in *Bloomsbury*. But this Informant did not receive the Sacrament upon any account whatſoever about the Plot. And this Informant then wiſhing he had had a Commiſſion in the new Levies, the ſaid *Thomas Jenniſon* replyed, That he would get him a Commiſſion from the Duke of *York*; whereunto this Informant returning anſwer, How could that be, ſeeing all the Commiſſions are now granted out, and full? The ſaid *Thomas Jenniſon* did then in plain Words tell this Informant, That there was a new Army to be raiſed for to bring in Religion, but would acquaint this Informant with particulars hereafter, and therefore deſired to know of this Informant

formant how he might ſend him a Commiſſion with ſafety, he knowing this Informant intended ſuddenly to go into the Biſhoprick of *Durham:* and as this Informant remembers, this Commiſſion was not to be ſent until the Taking off the King was effected; whereat this Informant was ſurpriſed; but *Thomas Jenniſon* did ſay, He could tell him Things more at large, after his receiving the Sacrament of Secrecy. And this Informant further ſaith, That upon the day that this Informant received the Twenty pound lent unto him, he went with the ſaid *Thomas Jenniſon* to Mr. *William Harcourt's* Chamber in *Dukes-ſtreet*, to return Thanks for the Obligation in conſenting to lend the Money. Mr. *Thomas Jenniſon* falling upon that common Topick, that Religion would ſuddenly come in, he did expreſs himſelf as Dr. *Oates* hath it in his Narrative (*viz.*) If C. R. would not be R. C. he ſhould not long be C. R. which he interpreted, *Si Carolus Rex non eſſet Rex Catholicus, non foret diu Carolus Rex.*; which was not the firſt time this Informant heard that quibling expreſſion from the ſaid *Thomas Jenniſon*, who further then added upon Diſcourſe, That the King being Excommunicated, and Depoſed; he was no longer King, and it were no ſin, or no great ſin at leaſt, to Take him off; and if it ſhould be diſcovered who did it, perhaps two or three might die for it, bot denying the Fact. This Informant ſuppoſes his meaning to have been, denying themſelves to be Papiſts that committed ſo Barbarous and Villanous a Fact, the Matter would ſoon blow over (becauſe the Duke was to Succeed.) And this Informant further ſaith, Being with the ſaid *Thomas Jenniſon* and another Gentleman about the latter end of *April*, or beginning of *May* 1678. (whoſe name he remembreth not) in the aforeſaid *Ireland's* Chamber, there came one in, who after ſome private diſcourſe with Mr. *Ireland* departed; and after he was gone, the ſaid *Thomas Jenniſon* told this Informant 'twas one Mr. *Oates*, who had been a Parſon, but was come over to them, and that he was a brisk jolly Man, well worth this Informant's acquaintance. And this Informant very well remembers, there hapning ſome time after, a Diſcourſe about the ſaid Parſon that was lately come over, the ſaid *Thomas Jenniſon* did ſay, That that Parſon was engaged in the Deſign;

whereto this Informant objected, That a reconciled Enemy ought no more to be Truſted, than an open Foe. But the ſaid *Thomas Jenniſon* anſwered, They were ſure enough of him, and that being once reconciled, they were the more zealous and truſty; to which opinion this Informant ſubmitted, inſtancing Dr. *Godwin*, and Dr. *Bayley*, as being zealous Catholicks, although they were Proteſtant Converts.

And this Informant further ſaith, That he was in *Shinfield* Pariſh near *Reading* in *Berks*, about the time of *Coleman*'s Trial, where he met with Mr. *Cuffell*, a Romiſh Prieſt and Jeſuit, who then much blamed the ſaid *Coleman*, ſaying, He was infatuated to ſuffer his own Papers to be taken upon the Diſcovery of the Plot, when as he had given Notice to Mr. *Harcourt*, Mr. *Ireland*, and the reſt of the Jeſuits, to Burn or Secure theirs. And he very well remembers, That amongſt other Diſcourſe, this Informant ſpoke againſt the Opinion that *Bellarmine*, *Mariana*, and *Suarez* maintained, touching the Power of the Pope, to Depoſe Kings; upon which the ſaid *Cuffel* mentioned a Sentence, which, he ſaid, *Bellarmine* did draw out of the Scripture for that Opinion, which was, *Quod Papa habeat eandem poteſtatem ſuper Reges, quam Jehojada habuit ſuper Athaliam.* And this Informant further ſaith, That Madam *Hall*, his Siſter, being preſent at the ſaid *Cuffel*'s other Diſcourſe, concerning *Coleman*'s infatuation, in ſending Notice, as before, *&c.* upon this Informants reflecting in the abſence of *Cuffell*, *viz.* That by his ſide-words he ſeemed manifeſtly to own a Plot, his Siſter did then ſay, She very much feared That they had ſome Bloody Deſign, for that ſhe had heard the ſaid *Cuffell*, ſome little time before the breaking out of the Plot, upon a Diſcourſe, That Religion would ſhortly come into *England*, ſay theſe Words, *viz.* There muſt be ſome blood ſhed, before Religion cou'd be introduced; but ſhe told him, She did not believe it ought to come in that way.

This Informant further ſaith, That uſually viſiting Madam *Harewell*, his Aunt, and her Daughter, at their Lodgings in *Kings-ſtreet Covent-Garden*, at the leaſt three or four times a Week, which was, as this Informant certainly remembers, before the Trial of the five Jeſuits Executed for the Execrable Plot, he had the opportunity of Seeing, Reading, and Tranſcribing ſeveral Papers and Letters from his Brother

Mr.

Mr. *Thomas Jenniſon*, all tending to invalidate Mr. *Oates* his Teſtimony, the particular Way he uſed doth not occur to his Memory. But this Informant remembers he told Madam *Harewell* and her Daughter, That he thought thoſe Arguments would do his ſaid Brother but little good for his Defence, unleſs he had better behind; but there were Two Paſſages in the ſaid Papers or Letters, ſome whereof were Subſcribed to one Dr. ------ or Sir ------ wherein the ſaid *Thomas Jenniſon* thus Expreſſed himſelf, *Why are our Friends diſguſted? I will not ſtir one hairs breadth.* By which Expreſſion, this Informant did believe, That ſome of the Plotters were Afraid and Jealous, leſt the ſaid *Thomas Jenniſon* ſhould Detect their Plot, and therefore by thoſe Words he aſſured them, that he would not recede one hairs breadth from his Reſolution of Secrecy. And this Informant ſaith, That he then communicating his ſaid Reflection and Obſervation to the ſaid Ladies, they were at a ſtand, not knowing how to excuſe his Meaning. The ſecond Paſſage was, about what the ſaid *Thomas Jenniſon* ſuppoſed himſelf to have ſpoke to the Lady *Tyrrwhit*, upon his being Apprehended at her Lodgings in *Bloomsbury*, whereof he ſeemed very ſolicitous to be aſcertained in the aforementioned Papers, and that by ſome cunning third hand. *For, I believe*, ſaid he, *I ſaid, I did not know Mr.* Oates; by which this Informant perceived his Meaning to be, That if he had then, *viz.* upon his Apprehenſion, denied his Knowledge of Mr. *Oates* to the Lady *Tyrrwhit* (who by the way was his Proſelyte) he was reſolved to perſiſt in the ſaid Denial to the laſt; though on the other hand this Informant doth certainly know the ſaid *Thomas Jenniſon* was well acquainted with the ſaid Mr. *Oates*, as appeared by Two remarkable Inſtances in the former Depoſitions of this Informant.

This Informant likewiſe ſaith, That Mrs. *Ann Ireland* coming to this Informant's Chamber to Chide him, for that ſhe heard he was about to Diſcover ſome Matters touching the Plot: She, to diſſuade him, haſtily ſaid, On my Conſcience I think you'll bring your ſelf into the Plot, and by your Diſcovery will own, That there was a Plot, and, That you was Engaged in it, and ſo Diſgrace your ſelf; though ſhe probably knew this Informant was no further con-

concerned, than in what was imparted in that Diſcourſe he had with her Brother (ſhe being then preſent) after this Informant's arrival from *Windſor*. And Mrs. *Ann Ireland* further ſaid then, That this Informant was worſe than Dr. *Oates*; for that Doctor *Oates* did follow the Plot, and make an early Diſcovery; but, that this Informant came in too late. To which this Informant replied, That what he had to ſay, he remembred from the very firſt Diſcovery, and before, or at the leaſt within three or four Months of the Breaking out of the Diſcovery of the Plot: and that he would not offer to Depoſe any thing upon Oath, but what he could certainly charge his Memory with, and ſo bid her not trouble her ſelf.

This Informant alſo very well remembers, That about the latter end of *September*, or the beginning of *October*, 1678. when he was at his Father's Houſe in the Biſhoprick of *Durham*, Mr. *Ralph Jenniſon*, a Jeſuit, came to ſee this Informant; who before they parted, asked the ſaid Mr. *Ralph Jenniſon*, how he might conveniently ſend Twenty pound to Mr. *Ireland*, which this Informant ſaid he did owe to him. Mr. *Ralph Jenniſon* replied (which Directions this Informant did then take in a little Journal) You may ſend a Letter with your Bill to Mr. *Ireland*, and Encloſe them in another Letter to Mr. *Oates*, at his Lodgings at Mr. *Grigſons* in *Drury-lane*, and your Letter or Moneys will come ſafe that way to Mr *Ireland*.

Jurat. nono die Novembris,
coram nobis,

Robert Jenniſon.

William Pulteney.

Thomas Stringer.

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